

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 DHA-02 AID-05 SCS-03

SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 USIE-00

USSS-00 OC-05 CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01 PRS-01 IO-10 /091 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:CCECIL:S/CCT:EWSCHAEFER:KM

APPROVED BY P - M, SISCO

AF/E - MR. COOTE (DRAFT)

M - MR. EAGLEBURGER

NEA - MR ATHERTON

S/S- J LHOGANSON

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O 191757Z SEP 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223957

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: SAG ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING RELEASE OF ASMARA
HOSTAGES

REFS: A. JIDDA 6375; B. STATE 222338; C. ADDIS 11122

1. WE WOULD LIKE TO ENLIST SAG SUPPORT IN EFFORT OBTAIN
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RELEASE OF TWO AMERICAN MILITARY TECHNICIANS SEIZED ON

SEPTEMBER 12 AS WELL AS TWO CIVILIANS CAPTURED ON JULY 14.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE APPEAL TO SAG AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS: (A) WE KNOW THAT SAG HAS A LONG-STANDING POLICY OF OPPOSITION TO TERRORISM, (B) WE ARE AWARE THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF ERITREAN SEPARATIST MOVEMENTS DO SEEK TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH SAG IN SAUDI ARABIA AND THAT SAG DOES HAVE SOME INFLUENCE WITH THEIR LEADERSHIP, (C) USG HAD BEEN HOPEFUL UNTIL RECENTLY THAT THE PLF WOULD HONOR ITS COMMITMENT TO RELEASE UNCONDITIONALLY THE CISCO TWO. FOLLOWING THE KIDNAPPING OF SEPTEMBER 13 OF THE TWO ADDITIONAL AMERICANS AND SUBSEQUENT PUBLIC DEMANDS THAT THE US DISENGAGE FROM ETHIOPIA IT IS NOW APPARENT THAT THE PLF DOES NOT INTEND TO RELEASE THE

AMERICANS AS EARLIER INDICATED, (D) WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT IF SAG WOULD USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH EITHER OF THE TWO ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONTS TO OBTAIN UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF THE FOUR AMERICANS.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE POINTS, AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO CONSIDER DESIRABILITY MAKING POINT SUGGESTED PARA 2 REF C THAT SAG WARN ELF/PLF NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE STAMPEDED BY PLO ELEMENTS INTO TAKING SIDES IN INTRA-ARAB DISPUTES.

4. IN THE COURSE OF YOUR PRESENTATION YOU SHOULD SPECIFICALLY EMPHASIZE OUR CONTINUING AND FIRM POLICY NOT TO SUBMIT TO BLACKMAIL, ACCEDE TO TERRORIST DEMANDS OR OTHERWISE NEGOTIATE ON THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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